

Sept. 18, 1999

5229 '99 SEP 23 A9:33

The Food & Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Md. 20852

RE: Docket NUMBERS  
98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Gentlemen:

Please BAN Forced Molting OF HENS. It is the primary cause  
OF SALMONELLA in Eggs and Chickens.

I am enclosing a NY TIMES Editorial regarding the  
Food poisoning OF 76 million Americans a year. One of  
these Americans is a close friend who recently had  
to spend 1 week in intensive care in the hospital,  
almost dying, because of salmonella poisoning from  
chickens. Think of that expense caused just  
to get HENS to LAY A FEW MORE EGGS.

Forced molting is cruel and unhealthy and  
unnecessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Cordially,

Ruth Kuzub

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97P-0197

10014

Enclosure 1

C695

# The Food Poisoning Toll

pg A16 N.Y. Times  
SAT., Sept. 18, 1999

Disquieting figures released this week by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta confirm that food poisoning is far more prevalent than earlier studies have suggested. The agency now estimates **that** about 76 million Americans contract some sort of food-borne illness annually — more than double **its previous estimate** of 30 million.

These findings come at a critical moment for the food **safety issue** in Congress. A House-Senate conference committee is about to convene to decide how much money will be allocated for food safety efforts by the Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration. Both chambers have passed budget measures that skimp on food safety. Although President Clinton requested an increase of \$62 million to expand food inspections and research on how to minimize microbial contamination, the

House bill provides only \$35 million and the Senate bill only \$42 million.

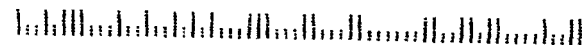
The new figures from the C.D.C. should prompt the conferees to approve the full funding requested. It **is** a pittance compared with the huge financial costs imposed by food-borne illness in terms of lost **work** and medical care, estimated by some experts as exceeding \$8 billion a year.

Beyond the immediate budget battle, Congress needs to turn to structural reform. The current system for protecting the public from unsafe food is a dangerously inefficient jumble administered by a dozen different agencies. A promising measure pending in the Senate would create a streamlined system under the authority of a new independent Federal agency. The latest C.D.C. findings make it seem all the more timely.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C694

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96P-0418/C694